

BRIDGEND CIRCULAR WALK

(SECTION 2)

INTRODUCTION

This leaflet describes a 10km (6 Miles) section of the Bridgend Circular Walk. You should be able to complete this section of the walk in 3 hours but allow more time if you are thinking of visiting some of the sites identified in the leaflet or if you simply want to enjoy the countryside. The villages of Sarn and Coychurch have most of the things you will need by way of facilities as has Pencoed Town.

For convenience purposes the directions below are written with Sarn Park and Ride as the starting point for this section of the walk. You could, however, equally well start from Coychurch or any point along the route, and if travelling in the opposite direction simply reverse all the directions.

Before starting the walk from Sarn if you wish to visit the **Church of St Bride (1)** (Llansantffraid) then leave the park and ride car park and walk along Heol Persondy for a short distance and the church will be on your right hand side. The Church is listed grade 2 as a much restored Medieval Parish Church which originates from the 14th or 15th Century and was heavily restored by G.E.Halliday in 1896. The sundial in the porch of the church dates from 1762 and within the churchyard there are several tombs and monuments that are also Listed Grade 2.

To begin this section of the walk from the Sarn Park and Ride car park follow the footway on the



The Bridgend Circular Walk

Section 2

KEY

- Bridgend Circular Walk
- Link to other walks
- River
- Railway
- Roads
- Built up areas

left hand side of the road under the railway bridge. Follow the pavement up Sarn Hill until you come to a turning on your right hand side, at this point cross the road and you will see the street name plate for Sarn Hill. Continue along this road and look out for the Bridgend Circular Walk logo and waymarkers on the lighting columns along Sarn Hill.

When you get to the junction with Bryncoch Road turn right and follow the pavement until on the left hand side of the road you see a junction into a street called Bryncwils. Cross the road at this point and walk straight ahead through the metal kissing gate where the footpath is sign-posted. Continue straight ahead along a rough access track to a wooden stile and field gate. Follow the track across the Coity Wallia Common until you see a wooden stile within the fence line straight ahead of you. Go over the stile but **Take care!** as there is only a small grass verge between the stile and the road.

Cross the road at this point and turn right following the pavement along which you will note the occasional waymarks either on lighting columns, traffic sign poles or on wooden way-marking posts. Continue on the pavement until you see an access track on your left-hand side, leading to an old pump house where you will also see a footpath sign at the top of the track. Should you wish to take a rest at this point there is a bench near the pump house where you can sit and look over towards Sarn.

However, should you wish to continue on the walk go over the wooden stile and follow the well defined track alongside the fence line. Continue on this track with the fence line on your right hand side until you get to a point where you will see a mobile phone mast and a wall which surrounds a covered a reservoir. At this point take the wider track to your left hand side. Follow this track which will eventually

bring you back towards the fence line, at which point you will note a metal public footpath sign ahead of you, walk towards this sign where you will come to the road that crosses the common.

At this point cross the road onto the pavement on the opposite side and turn right, follow the pavement over the M4 motorway bridge until you come to a public footpath which is signed on your left hand side. Turn left and follow the footpath along the access track for approximately 75 metres then follow the waymarked footpath on your left hand side across the common running alongside the motorway fencing. Continue on the footpath until it bears right onto a wider track past the property known as Bryn-Awel.

Continue on the access track until you get to a point near Rose Cottage where a waymark indicates that you take the grass track to your right hand side. Follow the footpath along the grass track for a short distance until you come to a tarmac surface near properties known as Dan-y-Bryn and Dyffryn Awel. At this point follow the track to your left hand side and continue along it until you come to a cattle grid. Continue through the kissing gate along the tarmac track known as Pant-y-Pwllau to its junction with Heol Las.

Choice: at this point turn right and follow the road into the village of Coity.

The village of Coity (2) is situated two miles northeast of Bridgend, having at its centre the extensive 12th Century ruin of Coity Castle. Immediately to the east of the castle is the 14th Century Church of St.Mary. You will also find a shop and a pub in the village.

Coity Castle (3) is Listed Grade 1 as an important example of medieval defensive architecture in Wales. The castle was founded in the early 12th Century and was probably built by Sir Guilbert de Turbeville a descendant of Payn de Turbeville who

was given the lordship of Coity for his part in the conquest of Glamorgan. In 1404 it became "the most talked about place" in the country when it was besieged by Owain Glyndwr. At the time it was the only place in South Wales still loyal to King Henry IV. The castle was still partly inhabited until the early 18th Century, however, it was largely in ruins by the mid 18th Century.

The Church of St Mary (4) is Grade 1 listed and was built in the early 14th Century, possibly on the site of an earlier church. On the tower of the church you will see some particularly ugly gargoyles. The east window of the church depicts Christ rescuing Peter from the Sea, Christ rescuing the woman with an issue of blood, and Doubting Thomas. The church's most celebrated relic is an oak chest with carvings depicting the Passion of Christ.

To continue on the Bridgend Circular Walk cross the road and continue straight ahead on the public footpath which runs along the track. Please note that most of the fields on the route from this point to Coedy-Mwstwr Uchaf Farm often contain cattle and sheep. You can help by reporting loose dogs or other problems affecting stock to the farmer. Go through the field gate and continue on the track over a wooden stile alongside a cattle grid to a point just before the access track which leads up to Giblet Farm. Follow the path to the right hand side as indicated by the waymarking post and continue to follow the path with the fence line and hedgerow on your right hand side.

Walk through this first large field until you come to another field gate, go through the field gate and straight ahead, towards the wooded area. Follow the well defined path through the wooded area where you will see a stile in the hedgerow on your left hand side. Go over the

stile and follow the direction of the waymark arrow across the field heading towards a metal kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate and then follow the access track that leads out onto Hendre Road.

At the junction with Hendre Road turn left and walk along the road, you may note wooden way-mark posts with the Bridgend Circular Walk logo and waymarking discs. Continue along Hendre Road until you come to a cross roads and take the road to the right hand side. A property known as Hendre Farm will be on your right hand side. Continue along the highway until a point where you will see a public footpath sign on your left hand side.

At this point there is a field gate, go through the field gate and continue with the hedgerow on your left hand side. You will be heading down a slope until a point where the field narrows considerably, at which point you will come to another field gate, go through the gate and head to the bottom of the motorway embankment where at the next field boundary you will see a wooden stile in the left hand corner of the field. Go over the stile and keeping the fence line close to your left hand side follow the field edge path up a slight incline. Continue through this field for some distance until you get to a hedged boundary straight ahead of you with a stile in the left hand corner.

Choice: at this point you can continue straight ahead over the stile on this footpath though the subway under the M4 Motorway, then across the playing fields along Woodland Avenue to the junction with Hendre Road turn right and continue along Hendre Road over the railway crossing. You are now in the Town of Pencoed where you will find all of the facilities you will need. From the playing fields you can also access the Sky to Sea long Distance Trail by walking along Llwyn Gwern then right on Hendre Road then left along Heol Wastadwaun for 560 metres then take the sign-posted footpath on the right hand side and

continue along the footpath until you get to the top of the ridge on Hirwaun Common at which point you can take the Sky to Sea over the Bwlch to the north or the Sky to Sea through the Vale of Glamorgan which heads south.

To remain on the Bridgend Circular Walk **do not** go over this stile but turn sharp right keeping the hedgerow on your left hand side heading towards a tree lined boundary. At this point you go over another wooden stile and through the centre of the field heading towards a large wooded area. As you enter the wooded area you will see another wooden stile. Go over the stile and follow the path defined through the wooded area until you come to another wooden stile. Go over the wooden stile and head in the direction indicated by the waymark arrow.



6

At this point you should be heading towards Coed-y-Mwstwr Uchaf Farm. The footpath runs along an access track through the metal field gate, and continues straight ahead on the access track. The farm at this point will be on your left hand side. Follow the access track for approximately 220 metres through another field gate, at which point you will be overlooking Coychurch. Continuing along this track, you will pass two properties on your right hand side and eventually you will come to a point on a private access track which leads to the Coed-y-Mwstwr Hotel. At the junction with this road turn left following the road downhill for approximately 160 metres until a point on the left hand side where the public footpath will be waymarked and you will note a metal kissing gate in the fence line.

Go through the gate and walk to the left hand side of the golf green then head down the slope to the opposite corner of the field. You will then come to an opening in the hedgerow go through the gap in the hedge and follow the path between two small barns. Go straight ahead

through the two field gates, following the access track then go through the kissing gate which is near a property called Coed-y-Mwstwr Isaf."

Go straight ahead from the kissing gate where you will cross a fairway on the golf course. Remember to take care and watch out for golf balls. Within the next boundary you will note the remnants of an old kissing gate and two public footpath signs, just follow the direction of the sign, keeping to the waymarked path. You will go over another fairway towards an old hedge line which you keep to your right hand side, near a teeing off point, if you look straight ahead from this point you will notice a gap in the vegetation which leads to the railway, walk through this gap until you come to a kissing gate where you will cross the Swansea to Paddington main railway line. Please ensure that you stop, look and listen and beware of the trains as they travel at high speeds along this section of track. Walk over the boarded walkway across the railway line and through another kissing gate at which point you turn right and follow a footpath which is bounded on both sides and runs alongside Coychurch Junior School.

7

When you get to the end of this footpath you will be on a street called Meadow Close, turn right and follow the pavement on Meadow Close.

Choice: if you want to walk the Nant Bryn-Glas Circular Walk continue along Meadow Close until you get to house number 15, walk between the houses and over the railway line and follow the road to the road junction at Shelf, turn left down the hill and take the public footpath on the right just before the stream.

To continue on the Bridgend Circular walk take the first turning on your left hand side on Meadow Close, and proceed along the footway where you will note waymarks on the lighting columns. Continue to a point where you come to a junction with Main Road. You have now reached your destination, the village of Coychurch.

8

The village of Coychurch (5) has a public telephone box, Post Office, village shop/garage and the Prince of Wales and White Horse public houses. The village is perhaps best known for the Reverend Thomas Richards, who was curate of Coychurch (Llangrallo) for over 40 years and was responsible for compiling a Welsh to English dictionary first published in 1753. The Tombstone of Thomas Richards (6) is Listed Grade 2 and can be found in the churchyard of St.Crallo.

The Church of St.Crallo (7) was built in the late 13th Century and is situated in the heart of the village. It is Listed Grade 1 as a building of outstanding architectural quality. As well as the tomb of Thomas Richards the churchyard also contains a group of 3 table tombs (8) situated close to the south porch of the church these are all Listed Grade 2 and a Medieval Churchyard Cross which is Listed Grade 2*.

At this point you can:

- Retrace your steps to Sarn
- Continue on the next section of the Bridgend Circular Walk (see leaflet 3)
- Catch a bus into Bridgend or Pencoed
- Use the facilities in the village of Coychurch

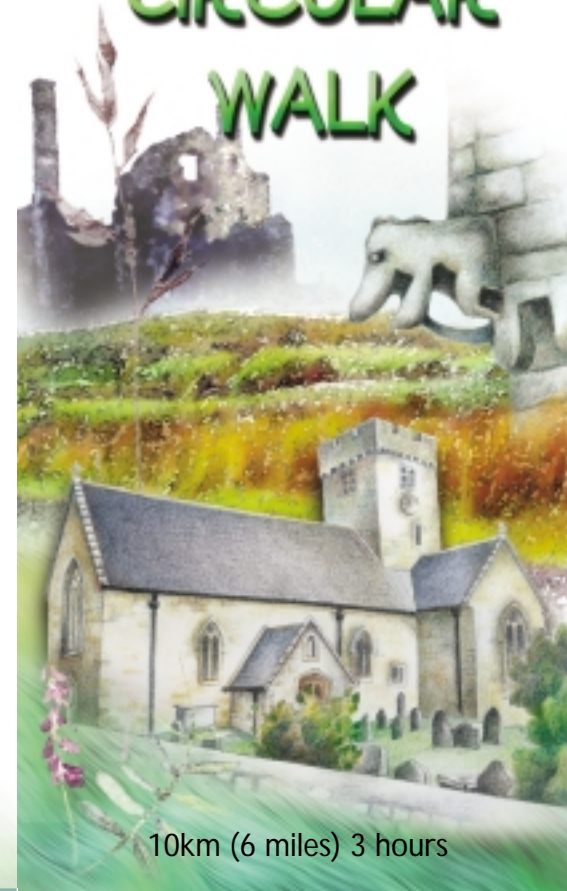
Thanks to the following for helping to either prepare the walk and text or for sponsoring the leaflet:



Leaflet 2



BRIDGEND CIRCULAR WALK



10km (6 miles) 3 hours

INFORMATION AND ADVICE

The going is easy although it may be wet in places. Remember to wear suitable clothes and good shoes/boots and take food and drink with you. Follow the Country Code and when you are on roads, keep to the right and make use of verges whenever you can.

It should be easy to follow the route using the map and instructions inside this leaflet. When walking the route try and look out for the Bridgend Circular Walk logo that will be situated on stiles, gates and posts along the route. Directional waymarks with yellow arrows will assist you as to which direction to walk in once you are on a public footpath. We also recommend you refer to the OS Explorer Map 151 Cardiff and Bridgend.

9

For further information about this walk, to pass on your comments and suggestions or to report any practical problems on any of the paths please contact the Rights of Way Section, Environmental and Planning Services Directorate, Morien House, Bennett Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 3SH (telephone 01656 642537 or 01656 642516).

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

There are a number of bus routes that link to this section of the Bridgend Circular Walk. If you wish to get to Bridgend Town Centre from Sarn Village there are 6 regular services that have journey times ranging between 11 and 20 minutes, 7 days a week. All buses from Sarn to Bridgend go via McArthur Glen Outlet. Alternatively you can catch a train from Sarn Station to Bridgend and Cardiff. The trains operate every hour between 8am and 8pm Monday to Saturday with a journey time to Bridgend of 8 minutes.

Coychurch village has 3 regular bus services departing from Main Road (nos. 44, 62 and 244). The services operate every 15 minutes, daytime

BRIDGEND CIRCULAR WALK



Distance: 32KM (20 miles)

Monday to Saturday and travel to Bridgend via Brackla. The journey time is 12 minutes.

Pencoed bus services depart from the War Monument in the centre of the town. There are 3 frequent bus services to Bridgend, departing every 15 minutes, daytime, Monday to Saturday. The journey time is 16 minutes travelling via Coychurch and Brackla. Services to Bridgend - 44,62, and 244. Trains from Pencoed to Bridgend and Cardiff operate every hour between 8am and 8pm, Monday to Saturday with a journey time to Bridgend of 7 minutes.

For further information on bus times and service numbers telephone Bridgend County Borough Council's Public Transport Section on 01656 642559 or the National Bus Enquiry number on 0870 6082608. Information regarding train times can be made via National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950.

CAR PARKING

The car park at Sarn Park and Ride is monitored by CCTV.

ACCOMMODATION

To make a reservation or to obtain information on accommodation contact one of the Heritage Coast Tourist Information Centres. These are at McArthur Glen Designer Outlet off Junction 36 of the M4 (telephone 01656 654906) and at John Street, Porthcawl (telephone 01656 786639).

For further general information about the Bridgend area you can contact us via e-mail at tourism@bridgend.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can visit our website - which is at

www.bridgend.gov.uk